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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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MEMORANDUM

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July 23, 1994

TO: AF - Mr. Moose

FROM: AF/RA - Kathleen Moody

SUBJECT: HFAC AF July 22 Briefing on Rwanda

HFAC AF Subcommittee Chairman Johnston hosted a four hour briefing of Rwanda on July 22. Congressmen Fish (R-N.Y.), Gilman (R-N.Y.), Payne (D-N.J.), Berman (D-CA.), Hastings (D-Fla.), Lantos (D-CA), Hall (D-Ohio) and McCloskey (D-Ind.) attended. Gerald Gahima (Rwanda Patriotic Front), Dawn Calabia (UNHCR), and Lionel Rosenblatt (Refugees International) were on the first witness panel. Michael Meyers from DOD's Office of Humanitarian and Refugee Affairs, spoke next. A.I.D. Administrator Atwood, fresh from the White House press conference on U.S. activities to counter the suffering of the refugees, spoke last.

The Congressmen expressed the following:

- Support for U.S. activity, including logistical and medical, to help UNHCR cope with the refugee crisis.
- Criticism of high-level Administration officials' inattention to the causes of the crisis and slowness in responding to the crisis itself.
- Criticism of the Administration for supporting the pull out of UNAMIR early in the conflict.
- Slowness of DOD engagement, including delivery of the APCs and assistance to the Ghanaian contingent.
- Criticism of the Administration for not jamming provocative radio broadcasts.
- Calls for recognition of the new RPF government.
- Calls for the new government to reach out to all to win back the trust of the refugees so the refugees will return home.
- Importance of other nations contributing to the relief effort.

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- Importance of UN presence in Rwanda to the return of refugees and stability of the country.
- Need to find international post-cold war mechanism to deal with these kinds of disasters.
- Support of trials in an internationally recognized body for those accused of genocide.

Johnston supported recognition of the RPF but warned that it should not be taken for granted; the RPF should strive toward a democratic society and move to establish an independent judiciary and media. The RPF should not make the formation of a professional national army a top priority.

The Congressmen asked the following. (Simon staffer Carolyn Reynolds attended the briefing. She told me she anticipates that Simon will ask you some of the same questions):

- Why are the civilized societies not addressing the underlying problems of these post cold-war crises, whether Bosnia or Rwanda? Why isn't there an international military capability to deal with this (whether or not such a presence includes the USG). (Lantos, Hastings)
- Zaire, Burundi, Tanzania, and Uganda may be destabilized as a result of the Rwanda crisis. Are we looking at Rwanda from the regional perspective? (Hastings)
- Why was the USG so slow to react? (All)
- How are we coordinating our response to the crisis with other donors and encouraging the other donors' participation? (All)
- Isn't our planned response to this crisis more akin to Provide Comfort to the Kurds, than it is to our effort in Somalia? (several asked)
- Why wasn't there high level administration attention to Rwanda?
- What has the U.S. agreed to do? What are other donors doing? (Details) (several asked)
- Why wasn't the USG more actively pursuing solutions to the underlying causes of the crisis in the UN? (several)

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- Wasn't the White House Conference on Africa meant to show high level Administration interest in Africa? In retrospect, wasn't it a farce since the White House was ignoring events in Rwanda, including not responding to the May 4 CBC letter? (Payne)
- Will the Administration need a supplemental appropriation? If so, we'll support. (all)
- Why aren't we looking at Kigali airport as well as Entebbe as a staging area? (Johnston)
- Why is the USG as the major world power chary of preparing for peacekeeping and peacemaking to prevent disasters? (Lantos, Johnston, Payne)
- Who in the Administration is coordinating this relief effort? (Payne) (NB Atwood responded that Tony Lake was coordinating. Atwood mentioned DOD and AID as contributors to the effort but said nothing about State).
- What is the status of UNAMIR? (Johnston)
- Since DOD finally has been ordered to participate, why is DOD moving so slowly to get the operation going? (All)
- Does the Administration need to name a Special Envoy to cope with this crisis? (Payne)

I distributed the witnesses' statements to you, DAS Bushnell and AF/C on July 22. (Meyers did not provide a written statement). Atwood orally added the list of USG activities announced at the White House to his written statement.

cc:AF:PBushnell
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